



International Federation of Classification Societies

IFCS News Flash April 1998

President: Chikio Hayashi

Editor: Paul de Boeck

VI CONFERENCE OF
*The International
Federation of
Classification
Societies*
*Data Science,
Classification
and Related
Methods*



21 - 24
July 1998
ROMA



From the President

First of all, I would like to express my hearty thanks for Professor J.Douglas Carroll, former President, and Professor Jacqueline Meulman, former Secretary and Treasurer.

I will serve as President of the IFCS from January 1, 1998 to December 31, 1999. I will do my best for IFCS's development and I would like to solicit your cooperation. There are three committees in the IFCS: the Finance Committee (FC), the Committee on Long-Range Planning of Conferences (CLRPC), and the Fund Raising Committee (FRC). The FC and CLRPC are mandated in the IFCS Constitution, but the FRC is new. The composition and function of these are described by the Secretary in another part of the newsletter.

The problems of differentiation and synthesis in science are familiar to us. We can see an interaction between these elements in the development of science. Science does not develop robustly without differentiation, and it lacks direction without synthesis. We encounter a similar situation in data science, encompassing statistics, data analysis, classification, and related methods. These two elements correspond to theory and application as well. Without theory, application is blind, whereas without application, theory has no point. It is an essential problem for the sound development of data science to design and conduct research while keeping always in mind the unification of theory and application. This is applicable to both specialization and generalization in data science.

I believe the IFCS-98 in Rome will be successful. I express my sincere gratitude for the arrangements made by the Scientific Program Committee, the National Organizing Committee, and the Local Organizing Committee. I hope many colleagues will participate.

Chikio Hayashi

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This is a special edition of the Newsletter.
The regular two issues of 1998 will appear later.

Contents:

From the President, conference announcements, GfKI news, SCF news, updates from the IFCS Secretary

The International Federation of Classification Societies, founded in 1985, is composed of: Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados, British Classification Society, Classification Society of North America, Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, Japanese Classification Society, Korean Classification Society, Société Francophone de Classification, Società Italiana di Statistica, Association des Sociétés Yougoslaves de Statistique, Vereniging voor Ordinatie en Classificatie, and Section of Classification and Data Analysis of the Polish Statistical Society. (Other societies are currently joining.)

The IFCS is a non-profit, non-political scientific organization, the aims of which are to further classification research. Among other activities, the IFCS organises a biennial conference, and supports the Journal of Classification.

1998 Joint Annual Meeting of the Classification Society of North America and the Psychometric Society

June 17-21, 1998, Urbana, Illinois, USA

The 1998 annual meetings of the Classification Society of North America (CSNA) and the Psychometric Society (PS) will be held jointly at the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois from Wednesday June 17th until Sunday June 21st, 1998, at the Levis Faculty Center on the University of Illinois campus. The meeting is supported by the Department of Statistics and the Department of Psychology, University of Illinois.

Two short courses are planned for Wednesday June 17th, with regular sessions beginning on the morning of Thursday June 18th. There will be a reception (June 17th), business meetings of both societies, and a banquet (June 19th) during the meeting. CSNA and PS meetings are traditionally informal and very interdisciplinary. Abstracts of papers are distributed, but no formal proceedings are produced. Speakers are encouraged to discuss work in progress, of either applied or methodological nature.

The invited addresses are:

- Adrian Raftery - How Many Clusters? Which Clustering Method? A Unified Answer Via Model-Based Cluster Analysis
- Erich Lehmann - Large Sample Theory: A Survey
- James Bezdek - Rule Extraction by Clustering

- Stephen Hirtle - Classification for Human-Computer Interaction (presidential address)
- Ivo Molenaar - Data, Model, Conclusion, Doing It Again (presidential address).

The two day-long short courses on Wednesday June 17th are "An Introduction to Classification and Clustering", taught by Stephen Hirtle, Pierre Legendre, and Glenn Milligan, and an "Introduction to Tests and Measurement", taught by Terry Ackerman. The latter is sponsored by the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research. Registration fees are required for the short courses (see the registration form).

Special sessions are planned on the following topics:

- Applications in Classification (David Dubin, Organizer)
- Distance Analysis of Multivariate Data (Jacqueline Meulman, Organizer)
- Modeling of Ranking Data (John Marden, Organizer)
- New PhD Roundtable Discussion (Carolyn Anderson, Organizer)
- Recent Advances in Probabilistic Choice Modeling (Michael Regenwetter, Organizer)
- State/Trait Models (Michael Eid, Organizer)

Current information about the meeting can be found at the WWW sites <http://www.pitt.edu/~csna/> and http://www.conted.ceps.uiuc.edu/fmpro/psychometric_society.form.html

The deadline for abstracts was March 21st.

Registration via the web is preferred -- please check the web site for a copy of the registration form.

News from the GfKI

At the last GfKI annual conference (Dresden, March 4-6, 1998) a new board has been elected.

President:

Prof. Dr. Otto Opitz, Lehrstuhl für Mathematische Methoden der Wirtschaftswissenschaften Universität Augsburg, D-86135 Augsburg, Tel. +8 21/5 98-41 50, fax. +8 21/5 98-42 26

Other members (in alphabetical order):

Prof. Dr. H. H. Bock, Prof. Dr. W. Gaul, Dipl.-Soz. M. Herfurth, Dr. H.-J. Hermes, Dr. B. Lausen, Dr. R. Ostermann.

The German Classification Society GfKI (Gesellschaft für Klassifikation) will hold its *23rd Annual Conference*, University of Bielefeld, March 10-12, 1999 under the title *Classification and Information Processing Before the Turn of the Millennium*.

Further information is available from the local organizer:

Prof. Dr. R. Decker, Lehrstuhl für Betriebswirtschaftslehre und Marketing, Universität Bielefeld, Fakultät für Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Postfach 10 01 31, D-33501 Bielefeld.

Third Announcement for the International Conference on

ORDINAL AND SYMBOLIC DATA ANALYSIS (OSDA98)

at the University of Massachusetts ,Lincoln Campus Center, Amherst, MA, 01003, USA

Beginning: September 28, 1998, 9:00 a.m.

Ending: September 30, 1998, 2:30 p.m.

This conference continues a sequence of conferences which started with two conferences on Ordinal Data Analysis in March 1992 at the TH Darmstadt and in October 1993 at the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) and continued with the International Conference on Ordinal and Symbolic Data Analysis in June 1995 at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Telecommunications (Paris), as well as the Ordinal and Symbolic Data Analysis Conference in March, 1997 at TH Darmstadt.

The theme of the conferences is motivated by the fact that ordinal and symbolic data occur quite frequently, but theoretical tools for handling ordinal and symbolic data are not sufficiently developed. The physical layout of the facilities, as well as the design of the program, will encourage active discussions and frequent exchanges of information during the conference. E. Diday (Paris), M. F. Janowitz (Amherst), and R. Wille (Darmstadt) are the conference organizers. The conference will be supported in part by the University of Massachusetts. Despite this, attendance at the Conference will involve a nominal registration fee.

The DEADLINE for applications and abstracts is July 1, 1998. If possible the abstract should be submitted in LaTeX, and should not consist of more than a single page. A template for the abstracts is available on request.

Inquiries, applications and abstracts should be sent to:

Prof. Melvin F. Janowitz

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

University of Massachusetts

Lederle Graduate Research Tower

Box 34515

Amherst, MA 01003-4515, USA

or preferably by Email to: OSDA98@math.umass.edu

Further information about the conference may be obtained from the Conference Web site:

<http://math.umass.edu/~osda98>

Associated with the Conference there will be a special session on "Ordinal Structures in the Social and Behavioral Sciences". Information about this session may be obtained from its organizers, Professor Jean-Paul Doignon of the Université Libre de Brussels (Email: doignon@ulb.ac.be) and Professor Jean-Claude Falmagne of the University of California at Irvine (Email: jcf@aris.ss.uci.edu)

There will also be a special session on "Applications to Medicine" organized by Professor William Shannon of Washington University School of Medicine at St. Louis, MO (Email: shannon@osler.wustl.edu)

Immediately following the conference, three afternoon tutorials are planned. One is being organized by Professor Edwin Diday, and will involve an exposition of Symbolic Data Analysis. The second one is being organized by Professor Dr. Rudolf Wille in the general area of Formal Concept Analysis. The third tutorial is being organized by Professors Jean-Paul Doignon and Jean-Claude Falmagne with the help of Eric Cosyn. It will involve lectures on Knowledge Spaces and a demonstration of the computer software called ALEKS.

The Conference organizers ask that if you are interested in either attending or presenting a paper at the OSDA98 conference, you advise them. They also ask that if you might wish to attend one of the tutorials, you advise the organizers of your intent. This can either be done via e-mail or via the web site address given earlier in this announcement. In connection with this, it should be noted that arrangements have been made for publication of abstracts from the conference as well as full papers in the electronic journal "Electronic Notes in Discrete Mathematics". In addition to this, there will be a special issue of the journal Discrete Applied Mathematics devoted to publishing a selection of carefully refereed papers from Conference. Authors interested in submitting papers for this special issue should bear in mind that only high quality papers can be considered, and that the refereeing process will be a serious one. Further information can be obtained from the conference organizers. The deadline for submitting papers will be December 31, 1998.

News from the SFC

The *sixth annual SFC meeting* will take place in Montpellier (France), September 21-23, 1998. It is organized by the ENSA-M (Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Montpellier) and the LIRMM (Laboratoire d'Informatique, de Robotique et de Microélectronique de Montpellier). The programme chair is Prof.O.Gascuel. The chairman of the organizing committee is Prof.G.Caraux.

Authors who intend to present a talk are requested to submit an abstract (minimum two pages - maximum four pages) (on the first page: the name and address of the author(s), a summary of maximum 100 words and a list of keywords) to the organiser, not later than May 1, 1998. The *Simon Regnier prize* will be awarded during the meeting. The general assembly of the SFC will be held during the meeting.

For more information (on the conference, on the prize, ..), please contact: SFC UFR Math. et Informatique/ 2, Place P.Viala/ F-34060 Montpellier France. tel: +33 4 99 61 24 28 fax: +33 4 67 52 14 27 email: sfc@ensam.inra.fr homepage: <http://gargantua.ensam.inra.fr/sfc.html>

Updates from the IFCS Secretary

The IFCS recently held a multi-part ballot on the appointment of members of the Finance Committee. I am happy to report that all three portions of the ballot passed, and thus effective immediately, the Finance Committee now has three new members:

- Wolfgang Gaul (GfKI) serving until January 1, 2001
- Ludovic Lebart (Group-at-Large) serving until January 1, 2002
- Noboru Ohsumi (JCS) serving until January 1, 2003.

The current members of the Finance Committee are Krzysztof Jajuga (SKAD), whose term expires on 1/1/99, and Helena Bacelar-Nicolau (CLAD), whose term expires 1/1/2000. Normally the Finance Committee has four members, with one new member being elected each year.

This year's election deviated from that practice in order to correct a previous irregularity in a way that seemed effective and fair to all parties, while ensuring a quick return to the procedure specified in the IFCS by-laws.

The new Finance Committee has elected Ohsumi as its chair.

It must now inspect and coordinate all annual budget proposals.

It must make recommendations regarding IFCS dues and the administration of IFCS funds, and examine and assess the annual report of the Treasurer.

Chikio Hayashi has asked that the FC prepare its yearly report in time for discussion at the Rome meeting (July 21).

Also Chikio Hayashi has appointed two committees. One is called the Committee on Long-Range Planning and Conferences (CLRPC) and its task is to advise the IFCS Council and assist member societies in preparing plans to host IFCS conferences.

The chair is David Banks (CSNA and IFCS Secretary), and its members are Jean-Paul Rasson (SFC), David Hand (Group-at-Large, BCS), Fionn Murtagh (Group-at-Large, CSNA), and Doug Carroll (CSNA, IFCS past-president).

The CLRPC is to recommend dates and locations for future conferences and, wherever possible, coordinate these with meetings of other cognate societies.

The second new committee is the Fund Raising Committee (FRC). The FRC works with the Finance Committee to identify needs and potential resources to support IFCS projects.

The FRC chair is H. H. Bock (GfKI, Group-at-Large), and its members are J.-P. Barthelemy (SFC), John Gower (BCS), Alfredo Rizzi (SIS), William Day (CSNA), and Yoshiharu Sato (JCS).

The tasks of the committee have been formulated as follows:

1. Advise the President and Executive Committee on sources of revenue for the IFCS.
2. Elaborate on some general guidelines for promoting and administrating such funds.
3. Make general recommendations and guidelines for a new IFCS program on 'Travel Expense Award for Young Researchers (TEAYR)' which will replace the former IFCS Award.
4. Give special consideration of the award procedure and the disbursement of any travel funds for the forthcoming IFCS conference in Rome.

The FRC serves at the pleasure of the IFCS president, and has no official role in the IFCS Constitution.

David Banks
IFCS Secretary

IFCS Newsletters on Internet:

<http://edfu.lis.uiuc.edu/~class/ifcs/newsletter.html>

The newsletters are available as PDF files, to be read with AcrobatReader. Click on AcrobatReader to download the program.

New IFCS Homepage:

<http://edfu.lis.uiuc.edu/~class/ifcs/>

The IFCS likes to acknowledge David Dubin for his design and maintenance of the new webpage. The IFCS also thanks Allan Gordon for the previous IFCS webpage and Keiji Yajima for the previous IFCS newsletter homepage.

To tide over the period until the first regular newsletter of this year, after the Rome conference, a special IFCS news flash is distributed.

News for the coming regular issues of the IFCS Newsletter can be sent to:

Paul.Deboeck@psy.kuleuven.ac.be

Text files are by preference in ascii, wordperfect, or word, with pc format (mac is difficult, although not impossible). For graphical materials, by preference BMP, GIF, or PCX are used.

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